

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER ELECTION

1. BALLOTING TO ELECT A SPEAKER FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL RESUME DECEMBER 23 AMID INDICATIONS THAT THE NATIONALIST FRONT PARTIES WILL MAKE A LAST CONCERTED EFFORT (AFTER 45 INCONCLUSIVE BALLOTS) TO ELECT THEIR CANDIDATE KEMAL ZIYA OZTURK. SHOULD THIS ATTEMPT FAIL, ODDS APPEAR TO FAVOR A BELATED HONORING OF THE GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT AND THE ELECTION OF REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) DEPUTY KEMAL GUVEN. PARTY LEADERS HAVE MADE THE FOLLOWING RECENT STATEMENTS:

(A) PRIMIN DEMIREL TOLD REPORTERS DECEMBER 19 THAT HE EXPECTED A SPEAKER TO BE ELECTED BEFORE THE END OF 1975. JUSTICE PARTY (JP) ASSEMBLY GROUP DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AYGUR REINTERATED THAT SENTIMENT DECEMBER 22 AND ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS THE "DUTY" OF ALL JP DEPUTIES TO ATTEND THIS WEEK'S BALLOTING. IF OTHER PARTIES DID THE SAME, A

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SPEAKER WOULD BE ELECTED BY DECEMBER 25, HE SAID.

(B) REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR) CHAIRMAN FEYZIOGLU ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 21 THAT SPEAKERS FOR BOTH THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE "HAD TO BE ELECTED ON DECEMBER 23." IF NOT, THE RR WOULD TAKE THE "NECESSARY DECISIONS." SPEAKING FOR THE RR PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, TALAT OGUZ STATED ON DECEMBER 22 THAT THE RR WOULD SUPPORT OZTURK ONLY ON THE FIRST BALLOT DECEMBER 23; AFTER THAT THEY WOULD VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT.

(C) NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) DEPUTY CHAIRMAN KAZAN ON DECEMBER 22 ACCUSED THE RR OF "GOING OFF THE RIGHT PATH." HOWEVER, DECEMBER 23 MILLIYET AND AYRINTILI HABER CITE UNNAMED NSP DEPUTIES WHO STATE THAT THE NSP WILL WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT OF OZTURK IF HE IS NOT ELECTED DECEMBER 23.

(D) DEMOCRATIC PARTY DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OLCMEN WARNED DECEMBER 22 THAT A SPEAKER HAD TO BE ELECTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OR THE MILITARY MIGHT ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE. HOWEVER, OLCMEN STATED THAT THE DP BELIEVED THE ELECTION OF AN INDEPENDENT (OZTURK) WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDERS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

2. COMMENT: ALL SIGNS POINT TO A MAJOR EFFORT TO ELECT A SPEAKER BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT BREAKS FOR THE NEW YEARJS HOLIDAY, BUT IT REMAINS UNCERTAIN WHETHER: 1) THE COALITION CAN ASSEMBLE SUFFICIENT VOTES TO ELECT OZTURK OR 2) FAILING THAT, AGREE TO BACK GUVEN OR 3) DEVISE SOME OTHER SOLUTION. THE LIKELY ABSENCE OF SEVERAL NSP DEPUTIES (REPORTEDLY STILL IN MECCA), A SPLIT WITHIN THE INDEPENDENTS AND THE SERIOUS ILLNESS OF ONE JP DEPUTY WILL MAKE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR OZTURK TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY VOTES. ON THE OTHERHAND, THERE IS A GROWING RECOGNITION BY THE PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT THE PUBLIC FEELS THE TIME HAS COME TO END THE STALEMATE. (THE TURK-IS LABOR CONFEDERATION PLANS A ONE-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE DECEMBER 24 IF NO SPEAKER IS ELECTED DECEMBER 23 (REPORTED SEPTEL). WHETHER THIS RECOGNITION WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO CONVINCE THE PARTIES TO ABANDON THEIR HIGHLY PARTISAN
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BEHAVIOR IS UNCERTAIN HOWEVER. THE POLITICIANS THEMSELVES DO NOT KNOW. DURING THE PAST FIVE DAYS, EMBOFFS HAVE RECEIVED CONFLICTING PREDICTIONS FROM TWO MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE RPP.
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